(b) whether his Ministry has made any proposal to the Ministry of Urban Development to make water harvesting compulsory in all new buildings and residential areas and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHR! JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources had requested Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation and State Governments to incorporate provision to make roof top rain water harvesting mandatory for buildings in urban areas by amending building bye-laws. Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation in consultation with Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has modified building bye-laws, 1983, to incorporate mandatory provision for rooftop rain water harvesting in all new buildings of 100 square meters and above in Delhi. Similar action to make roof top rain water harvesting mandatory has been taken by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Sea erosion in coastal areas in Tamil Nadu

948. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the continuing sea erosion in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu is threatening the ecological balance in these areas; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that damage to coastal ecosystem is being noticed due to coastal erosion along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Necessary measures such as construction of groynes, retaining walls, coastal shelter belt afforestation and mangrove plantation etc. have been taken up by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Flood problems in Bihar

† 949. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interlinking of Koshi and Gandak rivers is the only practical solution and measure for permanent solution of flood problem in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of positive steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has not done any study, which indicates that permanent solution of flood problem of Bihar is in interlinking of Koshi and Gandak. The NWDA proposal for interbasin water transfer has main objective of increasing irrigation. However, there is incidental benefit of mitigation of flood due to construction of storages. NWDA has proposed Koshi-Mechi, Koshi-Ghagra and Gandak-Ganga links which can help in mitigating flood problems in the State of Bihar. The National Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government provides for a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with southern rivers to be done in a fully consultative manner and also exploring the possibility of linking sub basins of rivers in States like Bihar.

Funds to NE States/Bihar for repair of dams.

† 950. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to increase in the allocation of funds

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.